

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:EHURWITZ:LM

7/17/73:23191

APPROVED BY EUR - JOHN A. ARMITAGE

EUR/EE - MR. JOHNSON

----- 113644

R 172230Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: SUBEV-ARMITAGE CONVERSATION

1. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS MADE DURING JULY 17 CALL ON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE BY DIMITUR SUBEV,
DEPUTY CHIEF OF BULGARIAN MFA AMERICAN DEPARTMENT:

2. SUBEV EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION WITH PROGRAM FOR
LUKANOV VISIT AND SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS HELD THUS FAR HAD
BEEN "VERY CONSTRUCTIVE." HE SAID THAT A VISIT TO SOFIA
BY SECRETARY ROGERS WOULD CARRY FORWARD THIS "GOOD BEGIN-
NING" IN IMPROVING RELATIONS AND ASKED WHETHER THERE IS
ANY IDEA ABOUT THE TIMING OF SUCH A VISIT. ARMITAGE REPLIED
THAT THERE IS NO PARTICULAR TIME FRAME UNDER CONSIDERATION
AND THAT IT IS HIS IMPRESSION THAT TIMING QUESTION HAS NOT
BEEN ADDRESSED. MUCH DEPENDS ON THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN
OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. IN THIS REGARD, ARMITAGE SAID, WE ARE INTERESTED IN
BRINGING CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS TO SUCCESSFUL
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CONCLUSION. A KEY QUESTION HERE IS OUR FORMULATION ON

DUAL NATIONALS. SUBEV REMARKED THAT THE CONSULAR CONVENTION POSED NO PROBLEM; HE FORESAW DUAL NATIONAL PROBLEM BEING HANDLED AFTER AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON REST OF THE CONVENTION AND INDICATED BULGARIANS HAD NO PROBLEM WITH OUR

DUAL NATIONAL POSITION. SUBEV EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY COULD COME TO SOFIA TO SIGN FINISHED DOCUMENT.

4. SUBEV SAID BULGARIANS WOULD LIKE TO MAKE PROGRESS IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, AND HE THOUGHT LUKANOV VISIT WOULD PAVE WAY FOR DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER POPOV TO COME TO THE US TO NEGOTIATE TRADE AGREEMENT. ARMITAGE CAUTIONED THAT IT WAS UNCERTAIN WHEN WE WOULD BE READY TO BEGIN SUCH NEGOTIATIONS; OTHER PROBLEMS MUST BE ADDRESSED FIRST.

5. ARMITAGE SAID THAT APART FROM ECONOMIC RELATIONS, WE WANTED BULGARIANS TO DISCUSS WITH OUR EMBASSY SUBJECTS RAISED IN ITS AIDE-MEMOIRE OF FEBRUARY RELATING TO MORE NORMAL WORKING CONDITIONS FOR EMBASSY. ARMITAGE ALSO WANTED TO RAISE TWO MORE GENERAL BUT IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF IMPROVING OUR RELATIONS. ONE WAS OUR HOPE THAT BULGARIAN MEDIA COULD TAKE MORE OBJECTIVE VIEW OF US POSITION ON VARIOUS ISSUES. WE OF COURSE UNDERSTAND THAT WE CANNOT SEE EYE TO EYE ON MANY PROBLEMS. BUT PRESENT SITUATION, TO BE FRANK, IS THAT BULGARIANS SEEM TO BE CHAMPIONS AMONG EASTERN EUROPEANS WHEN IT COMES TO ANTI-AMERICAN CONTENT OF MEDIA. ON MANY ISSUES BULGARIAN PRESS IS SHARPER THAN USSR. ARMITAGE SAID THAT IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED IN IMPROVING OUR RELATIONS, WE WILL HAVE TO WORK ON THIS PROBLEM AS WELL. SUBEV REPLIED THAT BULGARIANS CAN WORK ON THIS. BULGARIANS SINCERELY WANT TO IMPROVE TIES AND WILL DO THEIR BEST TO AVOID SMALL "DOWNS" IN RELATIONS. FOR ITS PART, MFA IN SOFIA HAS SOME ARTICLES ON FILE IN WHICH US PRESS CRITICAL OF BULGARIA. IN ANY CASE PRESS MATERIAL ARMITAGE REFERRED TO AND THESE ARTICLES DO NOT REFLECT BULGARIAN OR US POLICIES.

6. SECOND PROBLEM ARMITAGE WANTED TO RAISE WAS ABILITY OF OUR DIPLOMATS IN SOFIA TO MEET WITH OFFICIAL AND NON-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICIAL BULGARIANS. ROLE OF DIPLOMAT IS TO HAVE WIDE RANGING AND FREQUENT CONTACTS, NOT ONLY WHEN THERE IS SPECIFIC BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, BUT INFORMALLY TO SOUND OUT EACH OTHER VIEWS AND POSITIONS. ARMITAGE SAID HE HAS TOLD BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR ZDRAVACHEV TO FEEL FREE TO COME TO DEPT TO DISCUSS ANY SUBJECT, WHETHER IT IS US POLICY TOWARD AFRICA, SOUTHEAST ASIA, ETC. SUBEV SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH US CHARGE IN SOFIA AND HE

BELIEVED THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE PROBLEM ANY LONGER.

7. SUBEV ASKED ABOUT THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR TO SOFIA. ARMITAGE REPLIED THAT AN APPOINTMENT
SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING REASONABLY SOON. RUSH

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